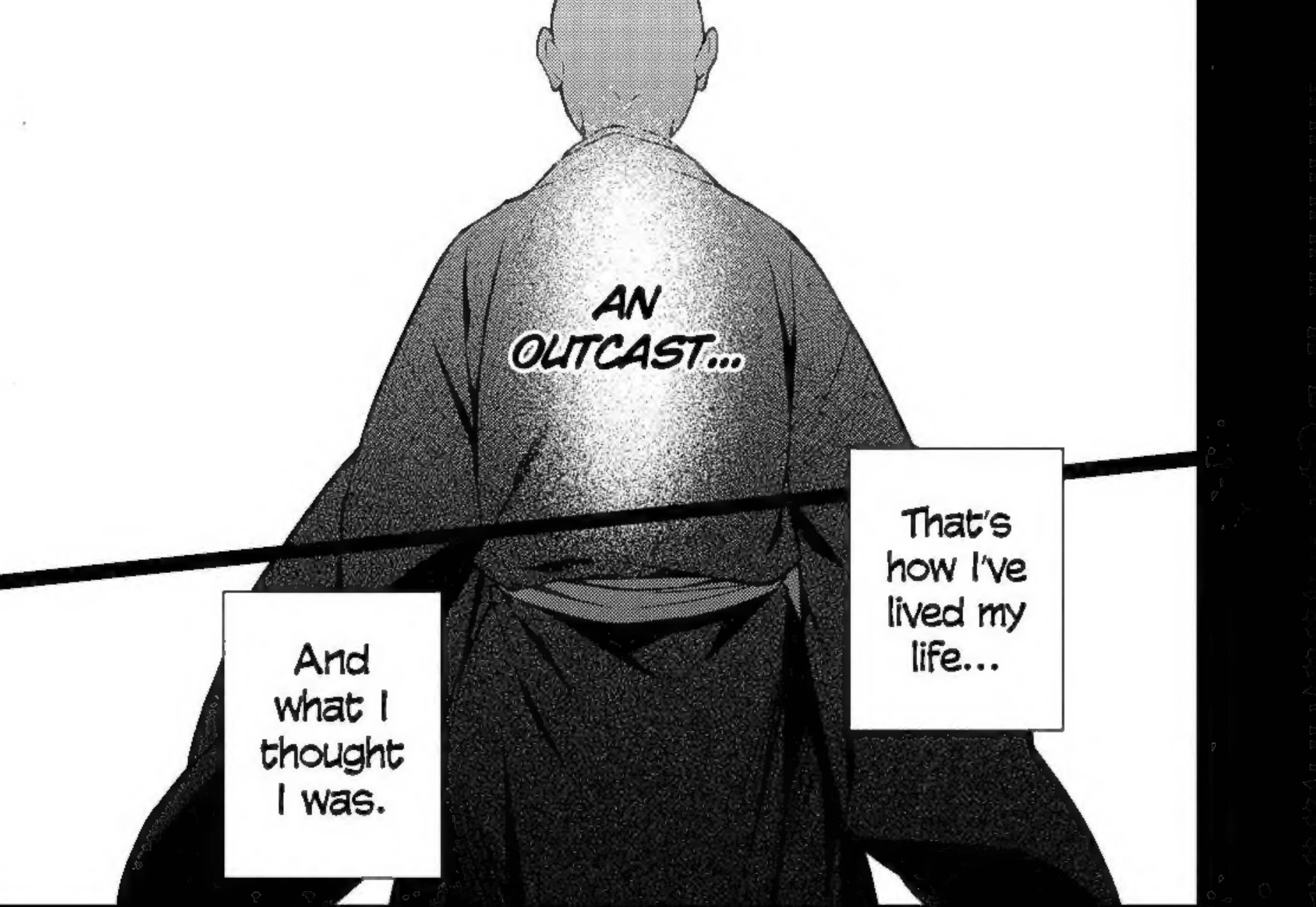




AN
OUTCAST...

That's
how I've
lived my
life...

And
what I
thought
I was.

Now
I've been
shown...

"AN
IMPOSTOR
HAS COME
TO DWELL IN
NANZENJI
ONCE MORE."

But now
I know...

SLAM

All
thanks
to that
man.



YOU AND
I ARE OF A
FEATHER.

BEHIND THAT
PLACID SMILE
OF YOURS...

DARK
EMOTIONS
LURK.



I
REALIZED
IT THEN
AND THERE,
HOLMES-
HAN.



THIS
TREMBLING
EMOTION
THAT WELLS
UP FROM
DEEP
WITHIN...

WILL
YOU SEE
THROUGH
ME THIS
TIME,
TOO?

YES, THIS
FEELING...



ART BY ICHIHA AKIZUKI
WRITTEN BY MAI MOCHIZUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
SHIZU YAMAUCHI

CHAPTER 18:
STRAYING AND ENLIGHTENMENT
(PART 1)





IT
RATHER
SUITS
YANAGI-
HARA-
SENSEI.

YES,

WHAT
A LOVELY
JAPANESE-
STYLE
HOUSE.



I GUESS
APPRAISERS
REALLY
MAKE BANK,
HUH?

WHEW!



"YANAGIHARA-
SENSEI IS A
WELL-KNOWN
APPRAISER.

THERE WILL LIKELY
BE SOME BIG NAMES
IN ENTERTAINMENT
AT HIS PARTY."

BUT
THEN
YOU
SAID...

I-
I DIDN'T
INSIST!

AKIHITO-
SAN...

IF YOU
INSIST ON
TAGGING
ALONG,
AT
LEAST
ATTEMPT
TO BE
POLITE.



IT'S MY PLEASURE.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY HE'S ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO CHINA.

I ORDINARILY WOULD'VE COME WITH MY GRANDFATHER,

I'M QUITE GRATEFUL YOU'RE ACCOMPANYING ME THOUGH, AOI-SAN.



WELL... THEY'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR QUITE A LONG TIME.

SO YANAGIHARA-SENSEI AND THE OWNER ARE FRIENDS, ARE THEY?



SPARRING PARTNERS...

SOMETHING LIKE SPARRING PARTNERS.

BUT ALSO RIVALS.

THEY'RE GOOD FRIENDS,



YANAGIHARA-
SENSEI.



I'M
SORRY MY
GRANDFATHER
COULDN'T
MAKE IT.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY.

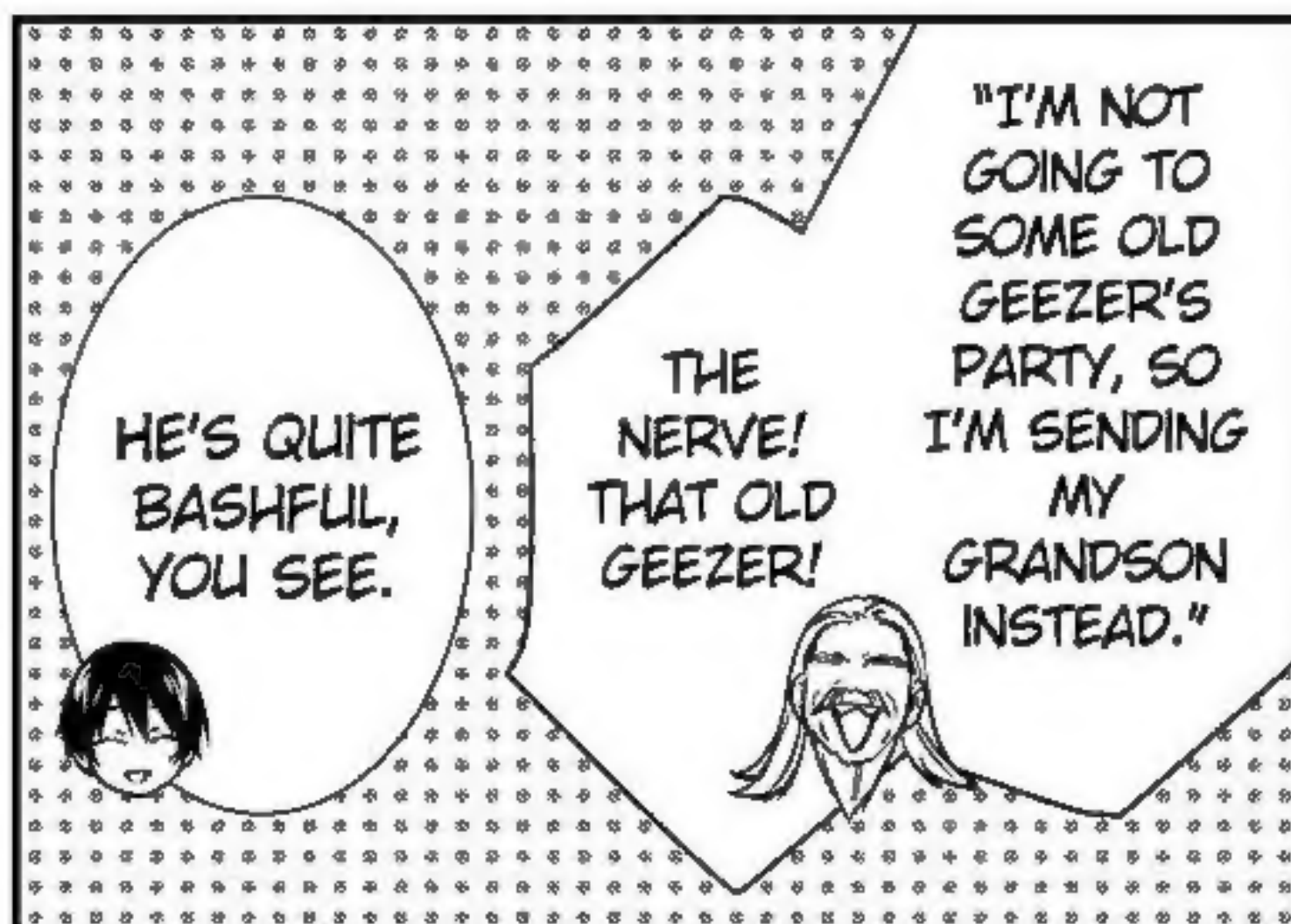
OH,
THANK
YOU FOR
COMING,
KIYOTAKA-
KUN.



YANAGIHARA-
SENSEI AND
THE OWNER
REALLY ARE
CLOSE...



HE CALLED
ME ABOUT IT
YESTERDAY.



HE'S QUITE
BASHFUL,
YOU SEE.

THE
NERVE!
THAT OLD
GEEZER!

"I'M NOT
GOING TO
SOME OLD
GEEZER'S
PARTY, SO
I'M SENDING
MY
GRANDSON
INSTEAD."



THANK
YOU FOR
COMING TO
AN OLD
GEEZER'S
PARTY.



NOW,
ARE THESE
YOUR
GUESTS?

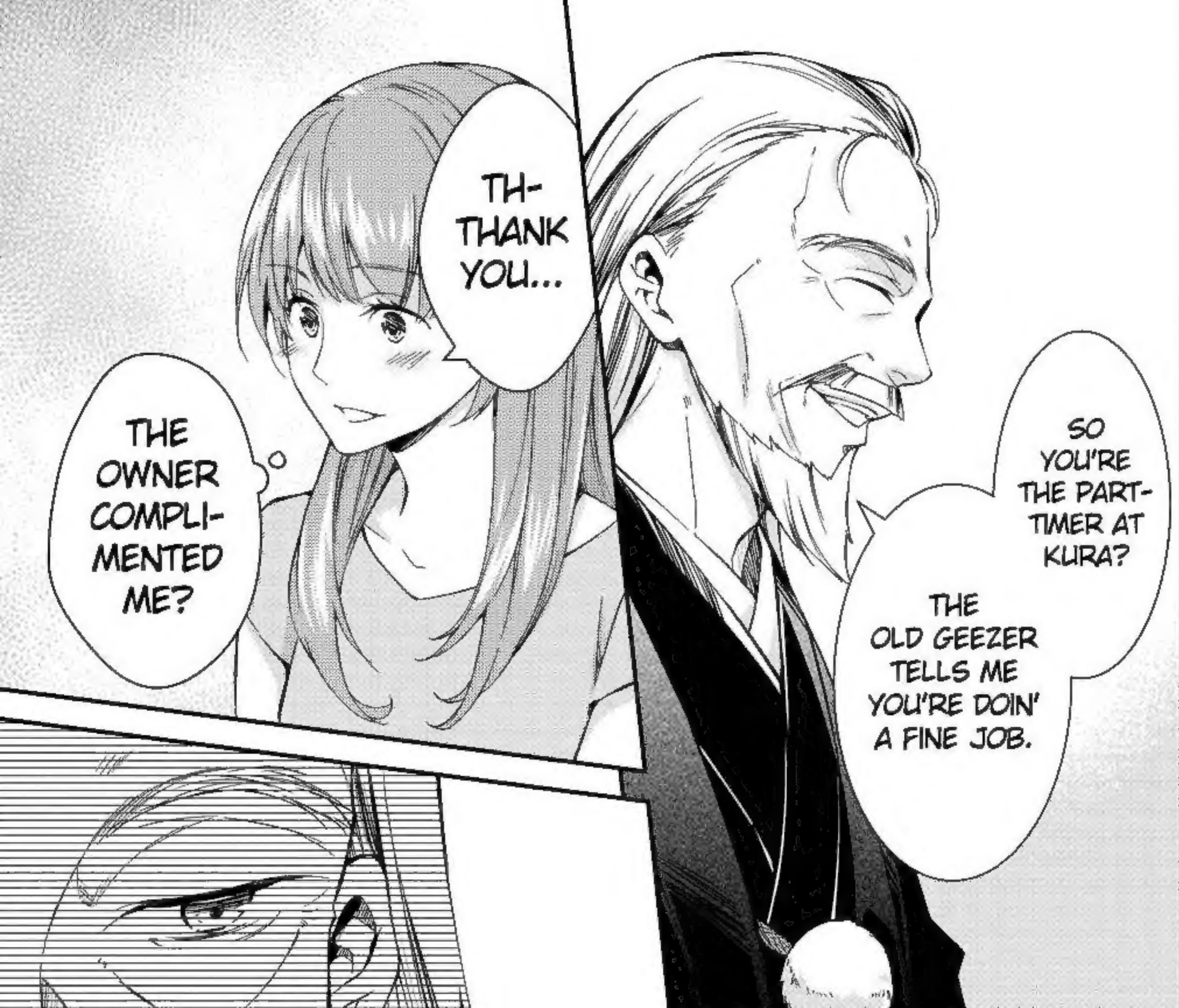


AND I'M
MASHIRO
AOI.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU.



I'M
KAJIWARA
AKIHITO.



THE
OWNER
COMPLI-
MENTED
ME?

TH-
THANK
YOU...

SO
YOU'RE
THE PART-
TIMER AT
KURA?

THE
OLD GEEZER
TELLS ME
YOU'RE DOIN'
A FINE JOB.



YOU'RE
RATHER
NORMAL.



YANAGI-
HARA-SENSEI,
MIGHT I HAVE
A MINUTE?

What?



IT'S BECAUSE
THE YAGASHIRA
FAMILY IS
FULL OF
ECCENTRICS.

DOES
HE THINK
I'M TOO
PLAIN TO
BE
WORKING
AT
KURA?



What
does that
mean?



I'M SURE
YANAGIHARA-
SENSEI WAS
SIMPLY
SURPRISED
TO SEE...

...A
NORMAL
GIRL
WORKING
FOR US.







TO
CELEBRATE
TODAY,

WE THOUGHT
WE'D PLAY A
GAME IN HONOR
OF YANAGIHARA
SHIGETOSHI'S
PROFESSION.



ER, HELLO,
EVERYONE.

I HOPE
YOU'RE ALL
ENJOYING
THE PARTY.

Secretary
Taguchi



SOON,
A DEPARTMENT
STORE WILL BE
HOSTING AN
EXHIBITION CALLED
"THE FAKE AND
THE GENUINE
ACROSS THE
AGES." YANAGI-
HARA IS
DIRECTING IT.

WE'VE BEEN
RUNNING, WELL,
SOMETHING OF
A SHOW AT THIS
PARTY. THE GAME
WILL PERSONALLY
BE OVERSEEN BY
YANAGIHARA.

A
GAME?



IS THIS THE
DIVERSION HE
MENTIONED?

THE
FORGERIES TO
BE DISPLAYED ARE
ALL EXCELLENT,
GATHERED FROM
ALL OVER THE
GLOBE.



SO, AS AN
EXCLUSIVE FOR
OUR GUESTS
BEFORE THE
EVENT...

RATTLE

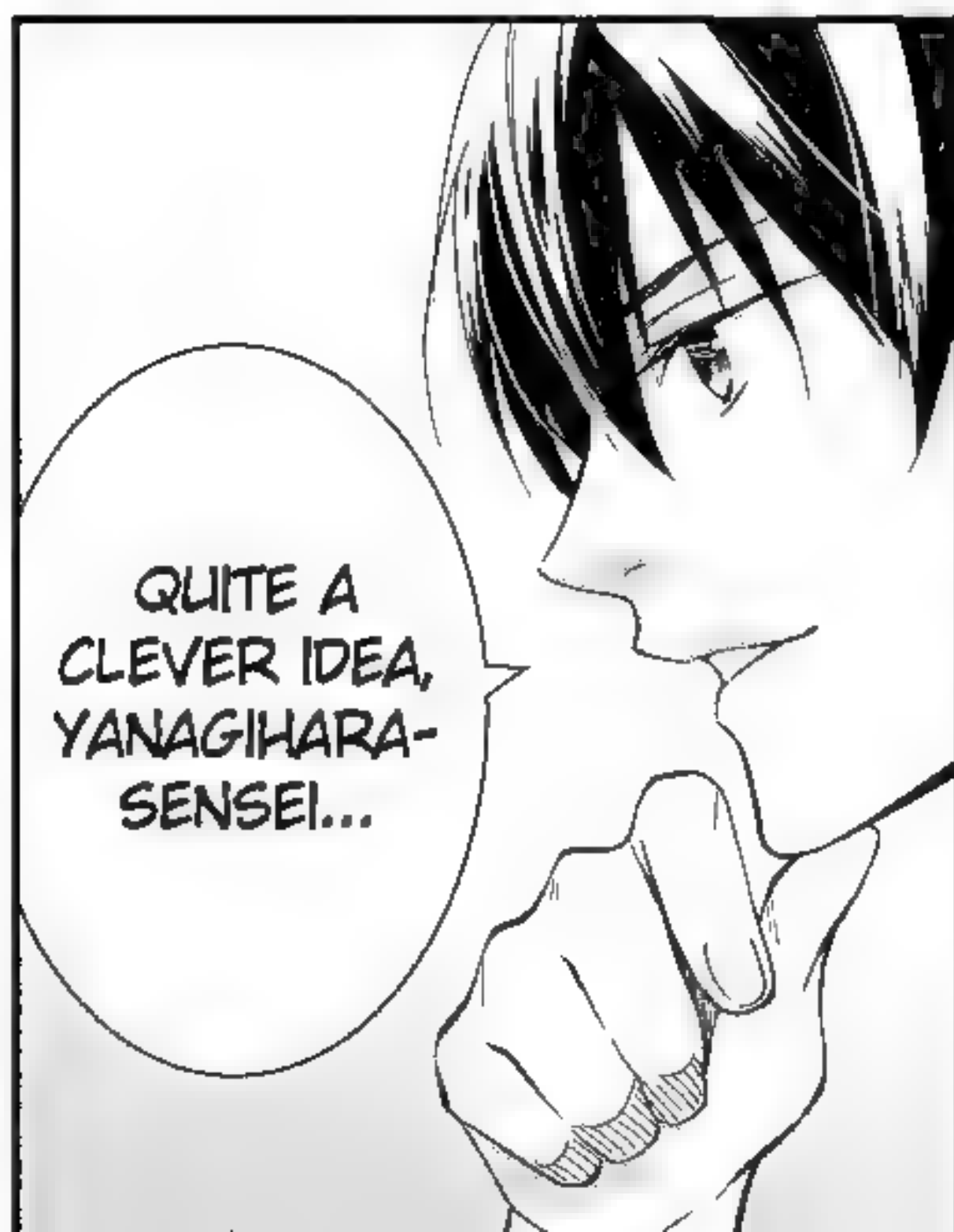


AND
SOME OF
THE
EXHIBITS
...

...ARE
CURRENTLY ON
DISPLAY IN THE
YANAGIHARA
RESIDENCE.



WE WOULD
LIKE TO HOLD
AN APPRAISING
GAME.



QUITE A
CLEVER IDEA,
YANAGIHARA-
SENSEI...



APPRAISING
GAME?



IN OTHER WORDS, A FORGERY, RAISE THE RED.

IF YOU THINK IT'S A FAKE...

IF YOU THINK THE OBJECT ON DISPLAY IS REAL, RAISE THE RED FLAG.

WE WILL NOW HAND OUT RED AND WHITE FLAGS.

BUT WE'VE PREPARED A PRIZE FOR THE WINNER, SO DO YOUR BEST.

IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, YOU'RE OUT.



REMEMBER THAT MASTER APPRAISER YANAGIHARA WILL BE WATCHING.

ALSO, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM GIVING ANY HINTS TO YOUR GUESTS.

WE ONLY ASK THAT PROFESSIONAL APPRAISERS AND ARTISTS REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING.

You can't fool me.





BUT
KINDLY
REFRAIN
FROM
TOUCHING
IT.

FEEL
FREE TO
TAKE A
CLOSER
LOOK...



IT'S
JUST A
DIRTY OLD
URN.

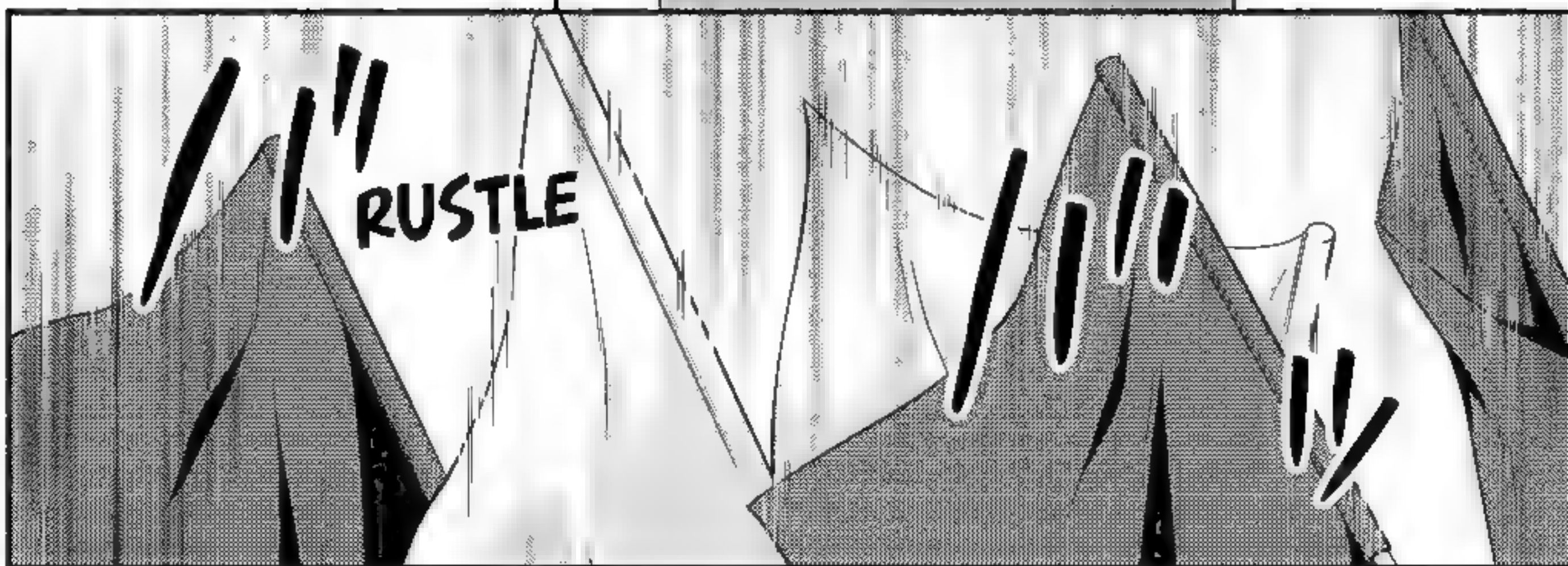
...



The mix
of silica and
feldspar has
a powerful
appeal...

but
Shigaraki
ware was
made for
everyday
use.

It's true
that it's
grainy and
dirty-
looking...





THAT
DIRTY, OLD
URN,
REALLY?

THIS
ONE IS
INDEED
REAL.



THAT'S
WHY IT ISN'T
DECORATED
OR EMBELLI-
SHED.

IT WAS
ACTUALLY
USED TO
STORE
SEEDS.



WELL,
YOU'VE
SHOWED
ME A REAL
ONE
BEFORE.



THAT...

WAS A
GOOD SPOT,
AOI-SAN.



A
KUTANI-YAKI
DISH.



NEXT, WE
HAVE...



BUT
I FEEL
LIKE THE
PICTURE
IS MORE
VIVID ON
THE REAL
THING.

IT
CERTAINLY
IS BEAUTI-
FUL...



WHAT
BEAUTIFUL
COLORS!



**IT'S
FAKE!**





HERE IT
IS...

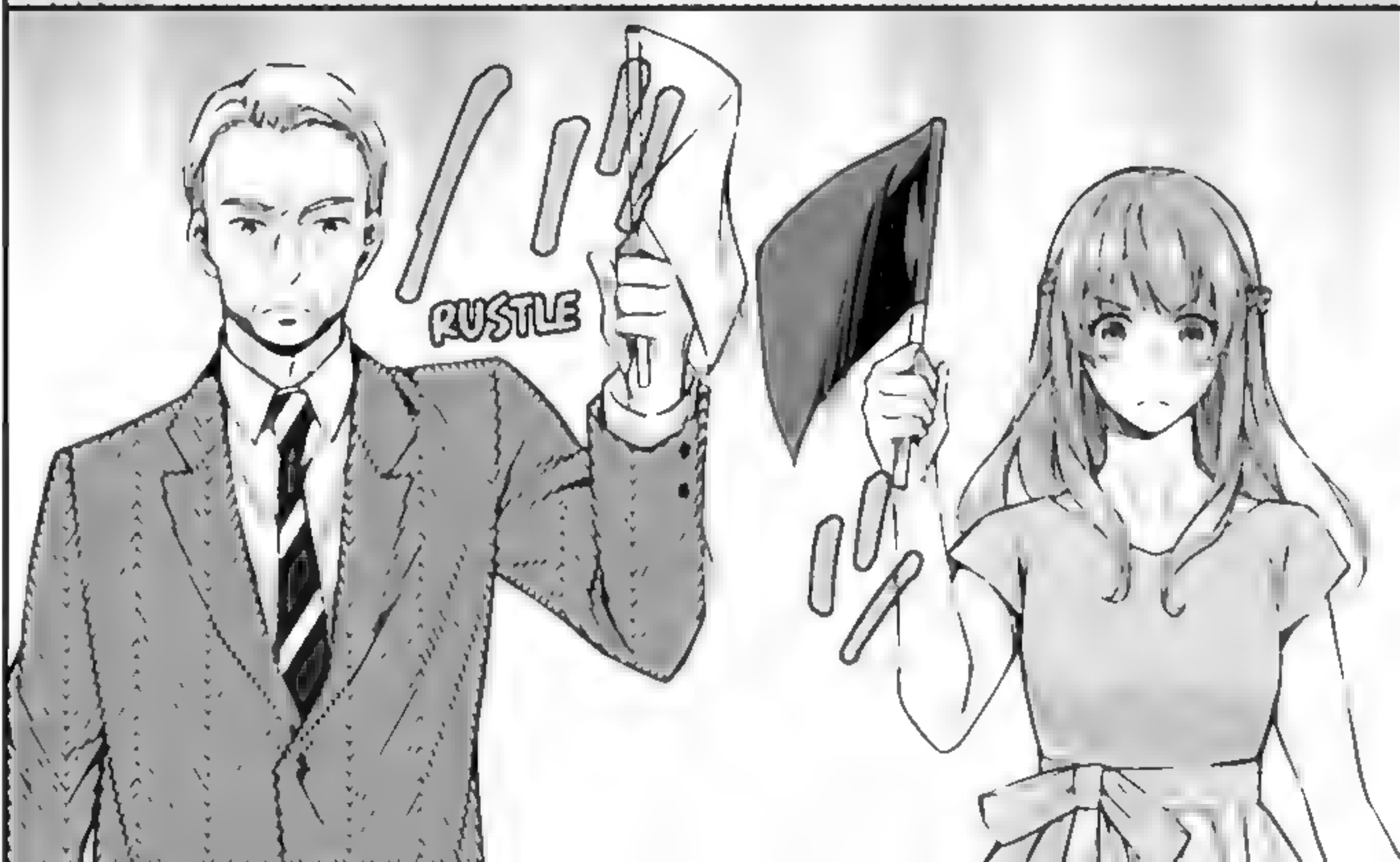
WILL THIS
BE THE
DECIDING
ITEM?

A SHINO
TEA
BOWL.



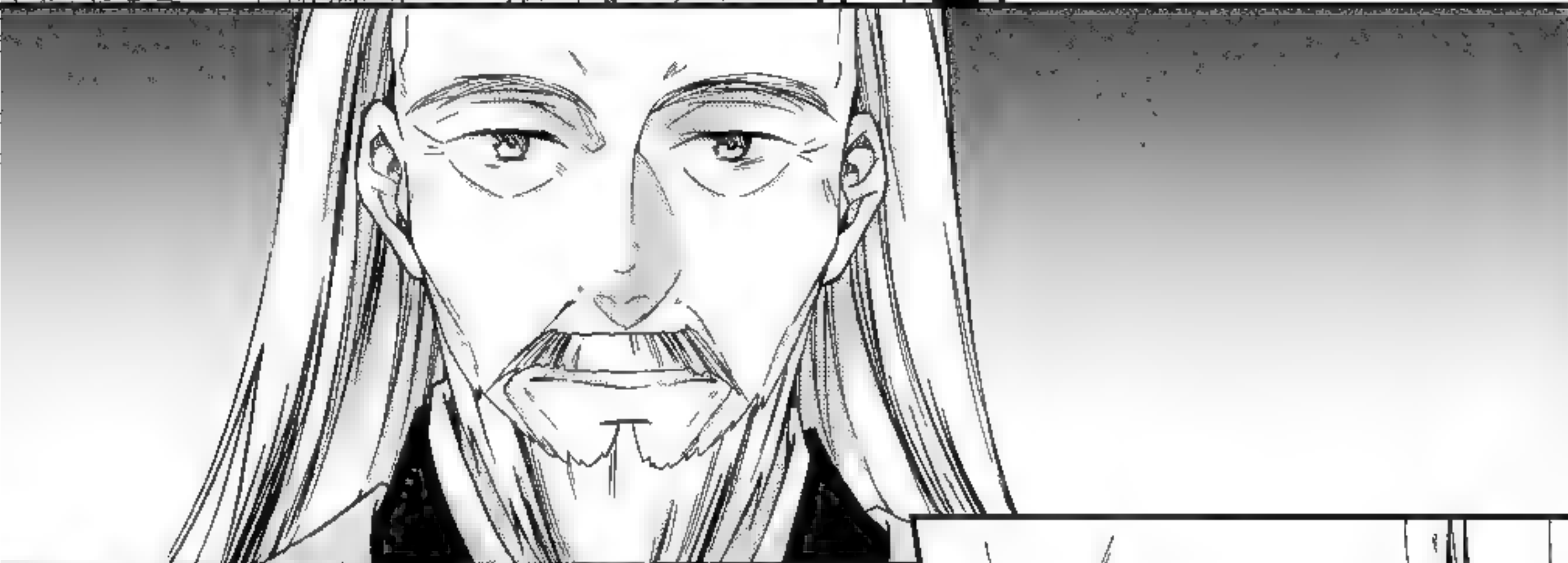
HMM...
△
△
△
...







THEY'RE
SPLIT!



THIS
BOWL IS
INDEED
FAKE.

わ
CHEER

あ



GOODNESS
ME. TO THINK
SUCH A YOUNG
GIRL WOULD
WIN...



I...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

AWESOME
JOB, AOI-
CHAN!



MAGNIFICENT,
AOI-SAN!





BUT TO
THINK IT
WAS THIS
GOOD... I'M
SO PROUD
OF YOU!

I KNEW
FROM THE
START THAT
YOU HAD A
GOOD EYE.



W-
WELL,
I...



I-IT'S
ONLY BECAUSE
YOU TAUGHT
ME ALL THOSE
THINGS...



I SEE
I STILL
HAVE
MUCH TO
LEARN.

MY
APOLOGIES
FOR SAYIN'
YOU WERE
NORMAL.



IT'S BECAUSE
YOU'RE TRULY
DISCERNING.

I NOW
UNDERSTAND
WHY KIYOTAKA-
KUN CHOSE
YOU.



TH-
THANK
YOU.



HE JUST
MEANS ABOUT
CHOOSING
ME FOR THE
JOB...
BUT
IT'S EASY
TO GET THE
WRONG
IDEA.



Now,
if you will, I'll
collect the
flags.

A
MARVELOUS
AND HISTORIC
TRADITIONAL
INN.

YOU'VE
WON A TRIP
FOR TWO TO
TSUKIMYA...



CONGRATU-
LATIONS
ON YOUR
VICTORY!



WHAT
?!

ENJOY
YOURSELVES,
YOU TWO.



AH,
FORGIVE
MY
PRESUMP-
TION.

YOU'RE
FREE TO
TAKE ANYONE
YOU LIKE, OF
COURSE.



I
MEAN...

W-
WE'RE JUST
COWORKERS,
SO...



HOW
EMBARR-
ASSING...



WE'VE
PREPARED A
VERY SPECIAL
DISPLAY FOR
YOU—PLEASE
OBSERVE.

NOW,
ONE LAST
TREAT.



WE'D LIKE OUR
APPRAISERS TO
DIVINE ITS TRUE
NATURE.



THIS IS
ONE OF THE
JEWELS OF
"THE FAKE AND
THE GENUINE
ACROSS THE
AGES"
EXHIBIT.



OUR
ENGLISH
COASTS.

BEHOLD
WILLIAM
HOLMAN
HUNT'S...



I'M SURE
THE VETERANS
AMONG
US WOULDN'T
STAKE THEIR
REPUTATIONS
ON A GAME,
HOWEVER.

THERE-
FORE...

OF
COURSE,
THIS WON'T
BE A REAL
APPRAISAL.

I'D JUST
LIKE OUR
PROFESSIONAL
APPRAISERS
TO TRY AND
GUESS.



IT'S A
BEAUTIFUL,
SOOTHING
PICTURE...

BUT...



THIS IS
DIFFICULT...

IT'S HARD
TO TELL JUST
BY LOOKING
AT IT.



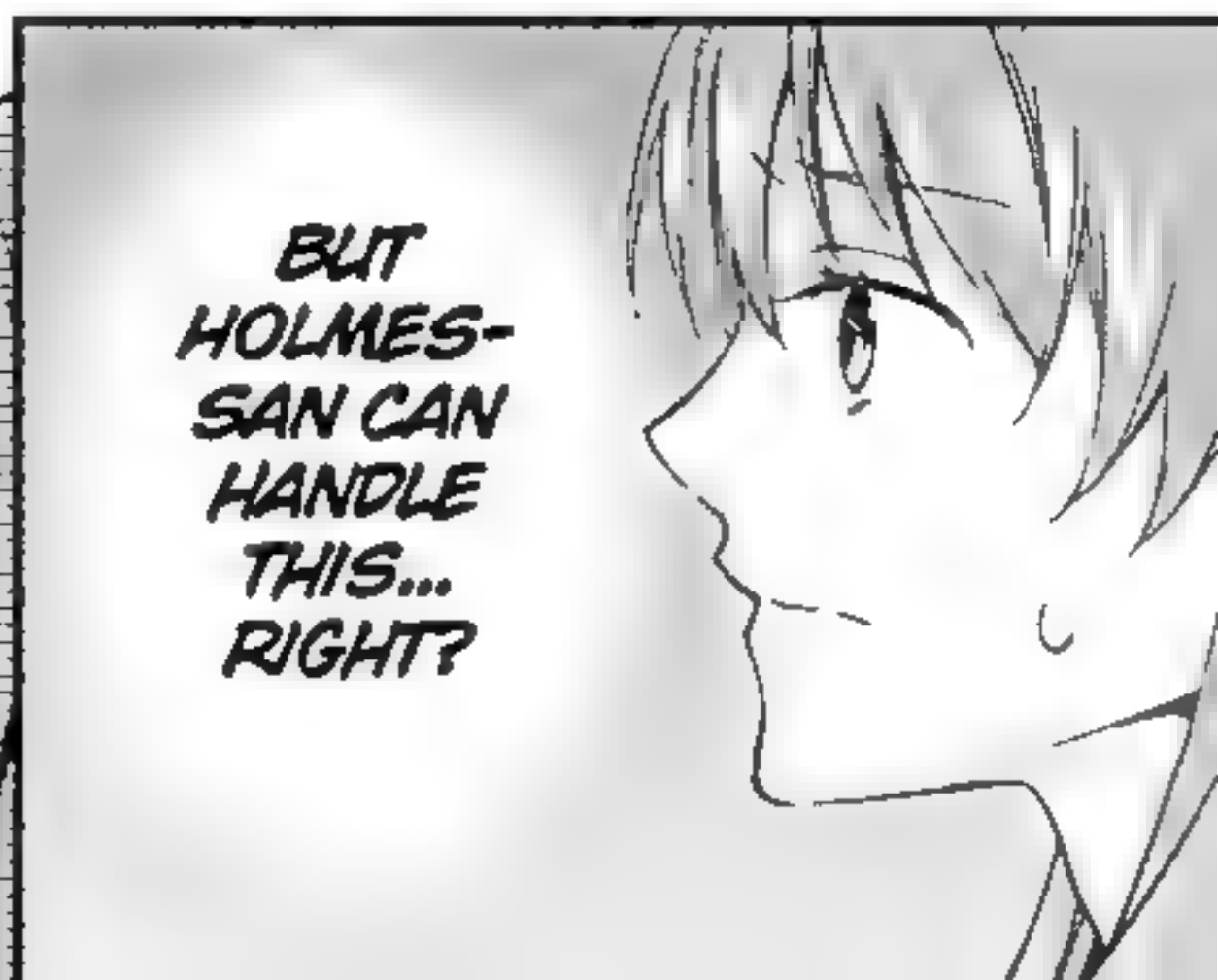
PERHAPS
YOU WOULD
LIKE TO
TRY YOUR
LUCK?

KYOTAKA-
KUN.



HE DOESN'T
DEAL WITH IT
OFTEN, SO HE
SAYS IT'S NOT
HIS STRONG
SUIT...

DOES
HE KNOW
WESTERN
ART,
TOO?



BUT
HOLMES-
SAN CAN
HANDLE
THIS...
RIGHT?



IS IT THAT
DIFFICULT?

I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM
TAKE SO LONG
LOOKING AT
SOMETHING
BEFORE...





IT'S VERY
SKILLFULLY
PAINTED...

BUT IT'S
COUNTERFEIT,
ISN'T IT?

WHAT
MAKES
YOU
THINK
SO?



I'VE
NEVER SEEN
THE ORIGINAL
PAINTING
BEFORE...

BUT HUNT
WAS KNOWN
FOR HIS
DEPICTIONS
OF NATURAL
LIGHT,

AND THIS
PIECE WAS
ONE OF HIS
BEST.

YET
THE LIGHT
IN THIS
PAINTING...

IT HOLDS
NONE OF THE
MAGNIFICENCE
OF REAL
SUNLIGHT.

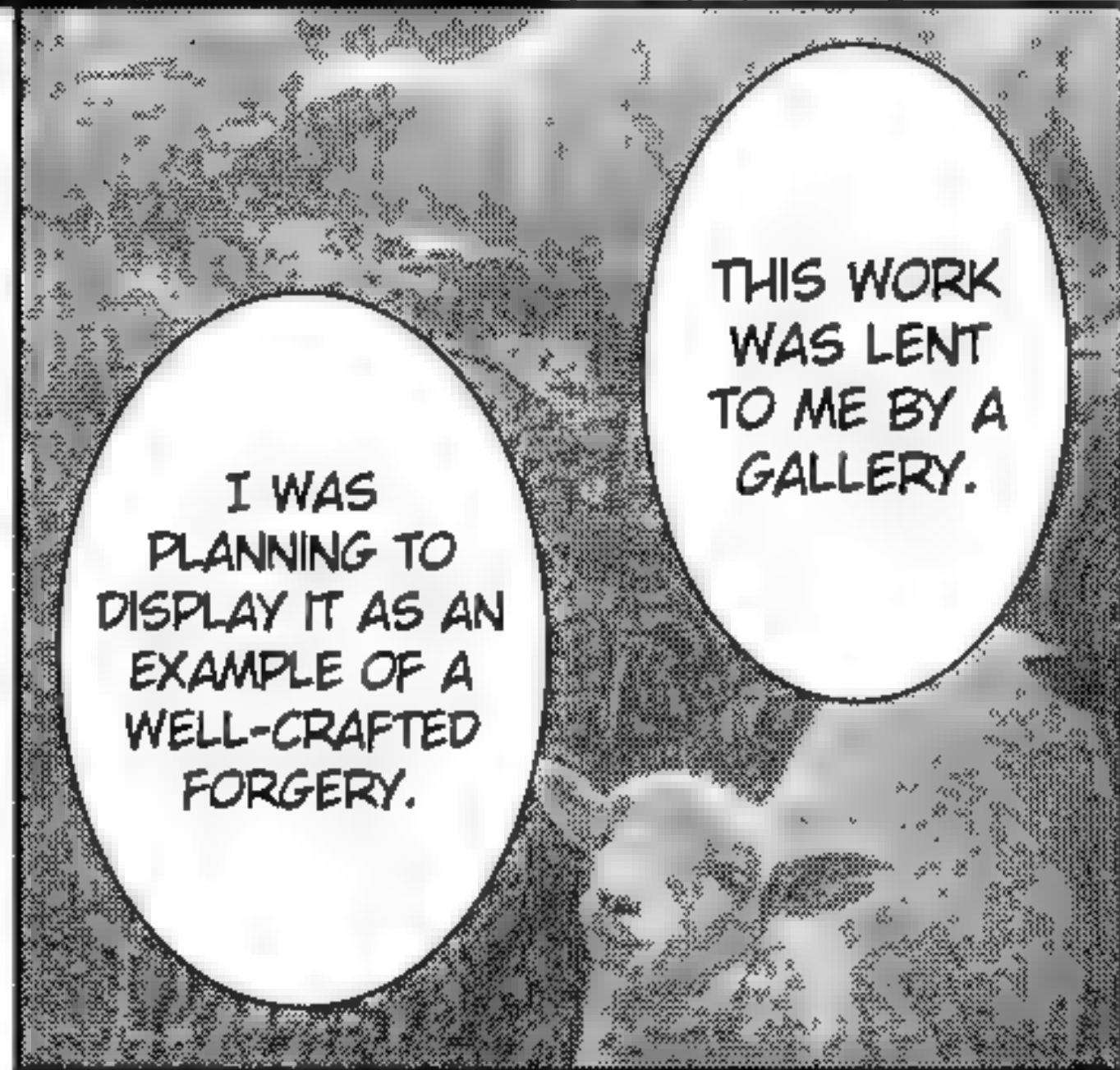


CORRECT!



HE IS!

HOLMES
REALLY IS
AMAZING!



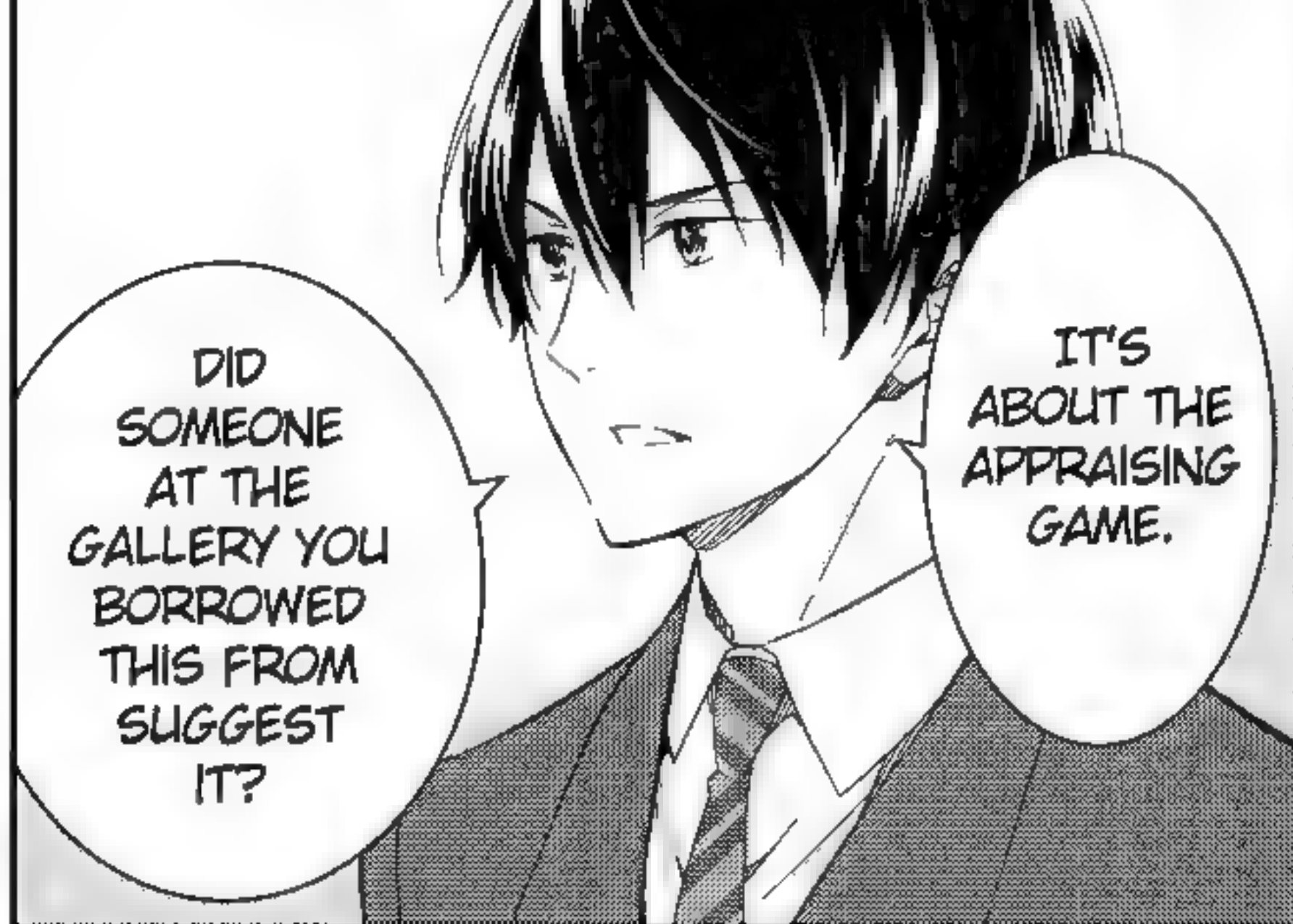
THIS WORK
WAS LENT
TO ME BY A
GALLERY.

I WAS
PLANNING TO
DISPLAY IT AS AN
EXAMPLE OF A
WELL-CRAFTED
FORGERY.



Wait,
Holmes-
san...?





DID
SOMEONE
AT THE
GALLERY YOU
BORROWED
THIS FROM
SUGGEST
IT?

IT'S
ABOUT THE
APPRAISING
GAME.



YANAGI-
SENSEI.

MIGHT
I HAVE A
MOMENT?



WE WERE
DISCUSSING
THE
EXHIBITION,
AND MY
BIRTHDAY
CAME UP.

AND
THEN...

OH?
HOW DID
YOU
KNOW?



AND THEN
HE TOLD YOU
TO SINGLE ME
OUT FOR THE
HUNT
PAINTING?



IT'S
A DIFFICULT
PAINTING,
SO HE RE-
COMMENDED
WE TRY IT ON
A YOUNG
APPRAISER
WITHOUT
MUCH TO
LOSE...

NO,

HE
DIDN'T
SUGGEST
YOU SPECI-
FICALLY.



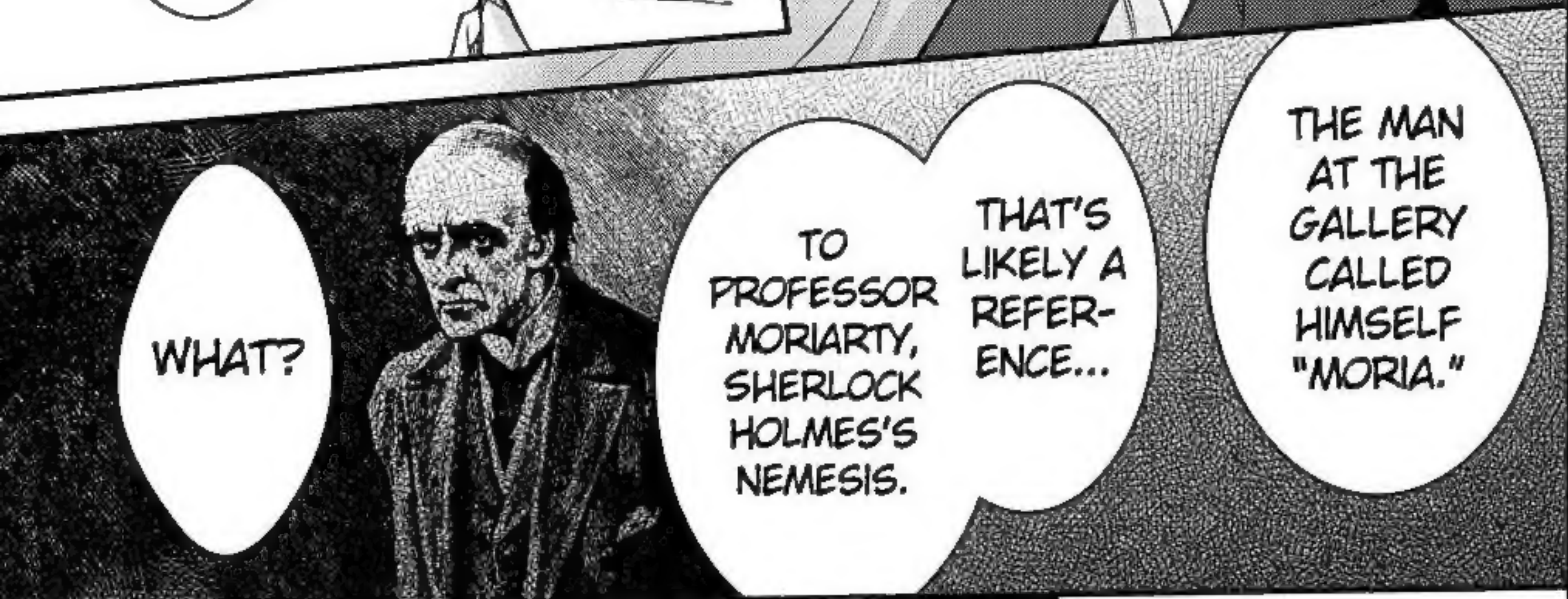
WHAT'S
WRONG,
HOLMES-
SAN?







MY
APOLO-
GIES...



WHAT?

TO
PROFESSOR
MORIARTY,
SHERLOCK
HOLMES'S
NEMESIS.

THAT'S
LIKELY A
REFER-
ENCE...

THE MAN
AT THE
GALLERY
CALLED
HIMSELF
"MORIA."



YOU
MEAN THE
MAN CALLING
HIMSELF
MORIA IS...

AND
SEIZED THE
OPPORTUNITY
CHALLENGE
ME.

HE HEARD
ABOUT THE
EXHIBITION AND
THE BIRTHDAY
PARTY SOME-
WHERE...



YES...

THIS IS
UNDOUBTEDLY
ENSHO'S
HANDIWORK.

CHAPTER 18
END